

Celebrity pg14



Richie wants to add to her family

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Movies pg8

New trend pops out at theatres



Cops probe stabbings at house party

ST. ALBERT Three New Year's Eve revellers are suffering from stab wounds after being attacked at a house party in a northeast neighbourhood in St. Albert about 15 minutes before midnight, say Mounties.

St. Albert RCMP Cpl. Don Murray said several people are in custody awaiting charges, but the investigation is still in the preliminary stages.

Mounties have yet to confirm the ages of the victims, but added their injuries were non-life-threatening.

Police in Edmonton, meanwhile, say New Year's Eve parties obeyed the law for the most part as city cops responded to a small number of complaints overnight.

METRO EDMONTON

Canada pg 3

Drugs may lure soldiers, report says

Music pg 11



Beyond transparency

World pg 4

Senior Hamas leader killed

Sports pg 6

Steve Nash mulls future



Boris Samu and his wife, Cheryl, hold their newborn baby, Anna Angela, at the Misericordia Hospital. Anna Angela Samu is Edmonton's first baby in 2009 after she was born one minute after midnight on New Year's Day.

Ringling in 2009

Anna Angela Samu is Edmonton's first baby of new year

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

One minute after midnight on New Year's Day was two days late for Cheryl and Boris Samu for the healthy arrival of their baby girl Anna, Edmonton's first birth in 2009.

Cheryl, who was due on Tuesday, gave birth to the six-pound, six-ounce baby girl after 10 hours of labour at the Misericordia Hospital at 12:01 a.m. Thursday.

Anna's arrival also happened one minute before another baby girl was born at the Grey Nuns Hospital,

"I was trying not to look, and I was praying with my eyes closed. I wasn't even trying to look at the clock."

Boris Samu

but her parents said they never paid much attention to the clock as they awaited their first child.

"(Cheryl) was in pain and I was holding her. I was trying not to look, and I was praying with my eyes closed. I wasn't even trying to look at the clock," Boris said about that special moment.

"When the baby was delivered they said, 'She's a New Year's baby.' We never really paid attention to it.

Cheryl wanted to push her out as soon as possible."

Cheryl, who works at the Misericordia Hospital, says she was doing some post-Christmas shopping at West Edmonton Mall when her water broke.

It was something that happened unexpectedly because her doctor said she would have to be induced Jan. 8.

"All of a sudden, her water broke and we knew we were going to have the ba-

by, but not a New Year baby," said Boris, who is an MRI technologist at the Grey Nuns Hospital.

"We thought she was going to be born on New Year's Eve."

As the parents greeted the media, both cuddled Anna, who was wrapped in a white blanket. The baby seemed to love the attention as newspaper photographers snapped away to get that special shot.

After one camera flash, the baby with a full head of hair appeared to smile.

"I am not surprised that she has a full head of hair because I had a full head of hair when I was born," said Cheryl.

Dead body found on city street

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

Investigators are saying very little about a bloody find made by passersby in the middle of a busy city road 30 minutes before midnight on New Year's Eve.

A young man was found dead in the middle of the road on 51 Avenue west of 106 Street sometime before 11:30 p.m. when police arrived on the scene, say city cops.

When paramedics arrived, police say the man was found with a large wound in the chest area, but an autopsy has yet to rule whether the man was a victim of foul play.

"We don't know what the circumstances are that led up to it, but it appears the male was 18 to 20 years of age," Insp. Greg Alcorn told reporters.

Alcorn confirmed police know the man's identity through identification he was carrying in his wallet, but said he couldn't release the man's name since next of kin hadn't been contacted.

Homicide investigators believe the man was seen inside a Petro-Canada gas station nearby in the neighbourhood, which is full of walk-up apartment buildings and shopping complexes, including the Southgate Shopping Centre.

Alcorn said police have seized surveillance footage from the gas station, which police blocked off overnight as they searched for evidence.

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ShareYourViews

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Cigarette-craving students will now have to walk outside of campus, and won't be able to buy their tobacco products at drugstores. Under the final phase of the province's Tobacco Reduction Act, tobacco products have been shelved from drugstores and retail outlets in universities and colleges that are no longer allowed to sell tobacco as of Thursday. **METRO EDMONTON**

Local



Health premiums axed

Alberta is a province without a sales tax, and as of yesterday, it is now a province without health-care premiums. By eliminating the premiums, the Alberta government says the move will save Albertans and businesses about \$1 billion annually.

METRO EDMONTON

Rexall outdoes the 'Dome

Big-name touring acts making more stops in Edmonton

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Madonna-less and Britney-free Calgary has been missing out on some major live acts, with some opting for Edmonton only as they pass through the province.

The uniquely shaped Saddledome is at least partly to blame for the bypasses, according to Calgary Flames president Ken King. "We have, from time to time, seen an increase of missed opportunities to house concerts at the Pengrowth Saddledome due to weight restrictions," King told Metro.

"It's not the only issue facing us, but it's increasingly happening more often."

While King says he would "obviously like to

"We're pleased such big acts chose Alberta as a province to come to, not just Edmonton as a city."

Cathy Ennis

house these big shows," the city wins some and loses some.

"It's true some concerts could have chosen both cities ... but the shape of the Saddledome or Rexall probably isn't the only deciding factor," said Tourism Calgary COO Aldon Wells.

He adds that sometimes other factors such as seating capabilities or hotel availability can also have an impact.

Wells said that while Calgary may have to go without popular acts such as Britney Spears or Madonna, who decided to skip Alberta altogether, they have

hosted their fair share of big acts, too.

"In 2008 we had the Juno Awards, which was huge, and in 2009 we have the Tim Hortons Brier and the world ski championships," he said.

Calgary has also rocked out to the Rolling Stones and U2.

"Calgary has a lot to offer as a city, not just a venue," Wells added.

While the city of Edmonton is happy to have certain acts performing, officials also look at it as a reward to the entire province, said Cathy Ennis of Edmonton Economic Development Corp.



Rexall Place beats out its Albertan counterpart, attracting more big music acts than the Pengrowth Saddledome in Calgary.

"We're pleased such big acts chose Alberta as a province to come to, not just Edmonton as a city," she said. "A sold-out venue is a sold-out venue."

King is hoping the

Flames will get a new venue in 2014 when the building's current lease is up, something NHL commissioner Gary Bettman endorsed when he was in Edmonton last week.

Worker killed in unknown incident

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

The family of a Syncrude worker is mourning the loss of a loved one.

Aman was found unconscious at the company's Mildred Upgrader Wednesday morning. The man was discovered in a catwalk in the upgrader's hydro processing area, said Syncrude.

The company says its emergency response team provided immediate attention to the man, who was later taken to a hospital in Fort McMurray where he died.

"This tragedy is especially sad given that it comes at a time of year when we are celebrating with our families and friends," said Syncrude CEO Tom Katinas in a release.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time."

Occupational Health and Safety is investigating how the man died. A spokeswoman says the worker may have been struck by a large piece of ice.

Syncrude says counselors were on scene working with the man's co-workers to help with their grieving.

The name of the deceased has not been released.

Man killed in New Year's collision on Highway 63

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

One man is dead after a crash early on New Year's Day on a stretch of Highway 63 known for a high number of collisions.

Police said yesterday the collision occurred 30 kilometres north of Wandering River around 2 a.m. between a Ford Ranger and a semi tractor truck that was hauling two empty chemical trailers.

Mounties believe weather may have played a "ma-

major role" in the collision, but their investigation still continues. The name of the deceased was being withheld until next of kin are notified.

Traffic investigators are asking anyone who may have witnessed the collision to call Boyle RCMP at 780-689-4081.

The province is working on twinning the single-lane highway that has seen more than 1,000 collisions between 2001 and 2005.

Wandering River is about 250 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

Making friends Give him a hand



Becky Mak holds seven-year-old Elyse Wong as she shake hands with Lt.-Gov. Norman Kwong at Government House on Thursday. Kwong was on hand for a New Year's Day event.

News in brief

HOMICIDE Three men were gunned down at a southeast Calgary eatery Thursday afternoon, bringing the city's 2009 homicide number to four — one day into the New Year. The men were in a restaurant when police believe more than one shooter entered and began firing. Two men were found dead inside the restaurant and another outside in the parking lot. Calgary's first homicide happened shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve after a bar brawl left one

man dead.

COLLISION A 19-year-old man died Thursday in a two-vehicle collision about two kilometres west of Castle Junction on Highway 1. The driver of the other vehicle was transported to Banff Springs Hospital with undetermined injuries. Identities were not being released until their families are notified. Icy road conditions on the highway were a contributing factor in the collision.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video The brave and the foolish ring in 2009 with the polar bear dip at metronews.ca/canada
Video Atlantic Canada kicks off 2009 with a punishing blizzard at metronews.ca/canada
Video Maple Leaf CEO Michael McCain's response to listeria being named business story of the year at metronews.ca/canada

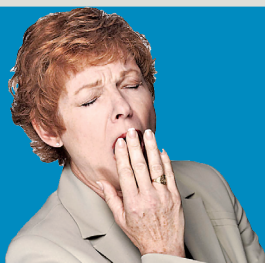


Students lack knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases, report says

Many Canadian high school students are unaware of the causes of infertility and do not know that sexually transmitted diseases can affect their ability to have children. Ninety-four per cent of the students did not know that sexually transmitted infections, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea, can lead to infertility, according to a report in the journal Fertility and Sterility. **REUTERS**

3

Canada



Insomnia costs billions: Study

Insomnia costs Quebec about \$6.5 billion a year, mostly through lost productivity among those who can't sleep, according to a new study. The figures calculated by researchers from the University of Laval in Quebec City suggest "the economic burden of untreated insomnia is much higher than that of treating insomnia," so there should be more studies of therapies.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Drugs may entice troops

Report says Afghan drug trade tempting to soliders

There's a "high probability" some Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan — one of the world's biggest sources of illegal drugs — will get involved in the drug trade, a military police report warns.

"Access to illicit drugs in Afghanistan is routine," reads the report obtained by Torstar News Service.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking," it reads.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking."

Military police report

It notes that using and trafficking drugs are illegal and "contrary to the ethos" of the Canadian Forces, but concedes some of the 2,500 troops serving in the war-torn nation might not be able to resist.

The findings are outlined in a series of military police

documents obtained by Torstar News Service under Access to Information legislation. The documents, requested in November 2007, were released last month.

One report cites a July 2007 search by military police officers, aided by a drug sniffer dog, of a Canadian

convoy returning from Spin Boldak, on the Pakistan border.

The report says the dog "indicated" on one of the armoured vehicles, as well as a heavy logistics vehicle that had been loaded on a flatbed trailer.

"The results of the search do not provide sufficient evidence to substantiate any charges. However, the results are indicative that (Canadian) personnel may be involved in the use and traffic of illicit substances," the report said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Memorial for B.C. avalanche victims Sunday

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada



TRAGEDY A memorial service will be held in the small town of Sparwood, B.C., on Sunday for eight snowmobilers who died in an avalanche near Fernie.

The men were part of a group of 11 friends who were caught in four successive avalanches in Flathead Valley on Dec. 28.

Jeff Adams, one of the three men to survive the incident, said in an emotional news conference that the decision to leave his friends and head for safety haunts him.

"We had to make the gut-wrenching decision to leave ... and start walking off the mountain," Adams said, explaining that he knew another avalanche was imminent.

"I replay it in my head all the time whether it was the right decision or not. The three of us talked it through and decided the best bet was to get out of the area and

More avalanches

• Two men are dead after three avalanches in the past 24 hours at British Columbia's popular Whistler Blackcomb resort. The RCMP confirmed Thursday that a snowboarder from outside B.C. was killed Thursday in one of two avalanches on Whistler Mountain. On Wednesday, a Whistler man, 37, was killed in an avalanche on Blackcomb Mountain. His body was found Thursday morning. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Nova Scotia A snowy start to the new year



A man walks through blowing snow near the Halifax Common on Thursday. A howling blizzard ushered in New Year's Day in parts of the Maritimes as snow and high winds caused power outages, disrupted highway travel and grounded flights at some of the region's airports. Most of Nova Scotia was hit with whiteout conditions all day, with the eastern part of the province and Cape Breton expected to receive the most snow — up to 60 centimetres in some areas.

News in brief

STRIKE Federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279, the union representing 2,300 striking Ottawa transit employees to vote on the city's last contract offer. Ottawa has been without public transit since drivers, mechanics and dispatchers walked off the job on Dec. 10.

FIRE Officers with the Ottawa

police arson unit, the fire department and the fire marshal's office are investigating a fire that struck a Radisson Hotel around 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Investigators say they found evidence inside the hotel that may suggest that the fire was deliberately set. One woman is in serious condition after suffering burns to her 20 per cent of her body.

METRO CANADA

Canadian tourists shot in Mexico

CRIME A Vancouver man is in critical condition in a Mexican hospital and his friend is stable after the two were shot at a strip club and tourist hot spot.

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed Thursday that two Canadians were shot Tuesday in Cabo San Lucas, a resort town at the southern tip of the Baja California penin-

sula.

A local newspaper, the Tribuna de Los Cabos, reported the victims are 26-year-old Donguyen Ninhtrung from Vancouver and Michel Brenhan Spowe, 28.

Metro was unable to confirm if Spowe is also from Vancouver.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /
METRO CANADA

Search for missing snowboarder cancelled

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada



SNOWBOARDER The search for a second snowboarder missing on Mount Seymour in B.C. has ended after police determined the footprints James William Martin saw on the mountain were his own.

Rescue crews began combing the mountain on Wednesday evening after the 21-year-old snowboarder, who'd just been found after three days in the wilderness, said he saw another set of tracks in the snow.

Martin, who recently moved to British Columbia from Ontario and works in Langley, was re-

get help."

Seven of the bodies were recovered Monday. Adams returned with search crews on Tuesday to help find the last missing man.

"It brought a sense of closure," Adams said.

The avalanche victims are Kurt Kabel, 28, Warren Rothel, 33, Kane Rusnak, 30, Leonard Stier, 45, Michael Stier, 20, Thomas Talarico, 32, Blayne Wilson, 26, and Danny Bjarnason, 28.

WITH FILES FROM REUTERS

ported missing on Tuesday.

North Vancouver RCMP found his SUV in the Mount Seymour parking lot with his cellphone and wallet inside and promptly called North Shore Search And Rescue.

Police said he's lucky to be alive, and he's being treated at Vancouver General Hospital for frostbite to his hands and feet.

Martin told CBC News that if he had to have spent another day on the mountain he likely would have died.

He said he'd expected to be able to walk out of the wilderness, but each day as night fell, so did his hopes of being found.

Those eager to put 2008 behind them had to hold their goodbyes for just a moment on New Year's Eve. The world's official timekeepers added a "leap second" to the last day of the year on Wednesday, to help match clocks to the Earth's slowing spin on its axis, which takes place at ever-changing rates affected by tides and other factors. **REUTERS**

Extra second added to 2008 by world timekeepers

World/Business

Israeli air strike kills Hamas official

Israel killed a senior Hamas leader in an air attack on his home on Thursday, striking its first deadly blow against the top ranks of the Islamist group in a Gaza offensive that has claimed more than 400 Palestinian lives.

Nizar Rayyan, a cleric widely regarded as one of Hamas's most hardline political leaders, had called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel.

Medical officials said two of his four wives and seven of his children were also killed in the bombing in Jabalya refugee camp.

Late Thursday night, Israeli war planes bombed the camp's mosque. Officials said it was a meeting

place and command post for Hamas militants. The large number of secondary explosions after the strike indicated that rockets and missiles had been stored there.

Hundreds of supporters scrambling over the concrete rubble vowed revenge as bodies, covered in blood and cement dust, were extracted.

Rayyan, 49, was a preacher at a "mosque of martyrs" who mentored suicide bombers.

Hamas Radio said he had ignored advice to leave his house as other Hamas leaders have done in anticipation of assassination attempts by Israeli forces.

REUTERS



Palestinians stand Thursday at the scene of an Israeli air strike on the home of senior Hamas leader Nizar Rayyan in Gaza.

At least 5 dead in India bombings

ATTACK At least five people were killed and 26 wounded when suspected separatist militants set off three bombs in India's northeastern Assam state Thursday, police said.

The first bomb was found in a dustbin in a heavily populated residential area, but went off before it could be diffused.

Explosives planted on bicycles near a shopping mall and street market also exploded in the late afternoon, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Police pointed a finger at the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the major separatist group in the state. **REUTERS**

News in brief

ANNIVERSARY Cuba celebrated Thursday the 50th anniversary of a 1959 revolution whose leader, Fidel Castro, turned the island into a communist state. The anniversary comes as the era of Castro, now 82 and in poor health, winds down and uncertainty hangs over the country's future. Celebrations have been subdued as Cuba is mired in economic problems. **REUTERS**

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Partygoers killed in Thai nightclub fire

BLAZE A fire at a Bangkok nightclub killed at least 61 people and injured more than 200 others as people celebrating the New Year stampeded out of the club.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, with witnesses saying it was caused by fireworks and media reporting it was due

to an electrical fault.

Forensic experts were unable to identify at least 30 bodies as they had no identification documents with them, doctors said, adding it would take them at least a week to do so.

Foreigners treated in hospitals included those from Japan, Australia, the

Netherlands and France, police said.

Although details were sketchy, witnesses said clubbers were given sparklers shortly before midnight. As the clock ticked over into 2009, fireworks went off inside the dance area, sparking a conflagration. **REUTERS**

Business

Business in brief

AUTO While it will be years before it's released, Toyota Motor Corp. is secretly designing a vehicle that will run completely on solar energy. A newspaper in Japan says Toyota is developing the environmentally friendly car in order to boost struggling business.

PURCHASE Bank of America Corp completed its purchase of Merrill Lynch & Co. yesterday, creating the largest U.S. bank and perhaps one of the biggest challenges yet for longtime chief executive Kenneth Lewis. Bank of America now has about \$2.7 trillion US in assets. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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American album sales tumble in '08

U.S. album sales slid for a seventh time in eight years in 2008 as growth in the digital arena, one of the few bright spots in the ailing music industry, slowed, according to data issued this week.

Total album sales fell 14 per cent to 428.4 million units during the 52-week period ended Dec. 28, according to retail data collected by tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.

This follows a 15 per cent drop in 2007, and sets a new low since the firm began monitoring sales in 1991. Sales have plummeted 45 per cent from the industry's high-water mark

of 785.1 million units in 2000, due largely to Internet piracy and competition from other forms of entertainment such as video games. Last year's No. 1 album was pop vocalist Josh Groban's Noel with 3.7 million copies.

Only three other albums sold more than two million copies this year: Last year, eight albums sold more than two million copies.

Overall music sales, including albums, singles, music video and digital tracks, rose 10.5 per cent to 1.5 billion units. **REUTERS**

Ringing sales

- Purchases of the top 100 mastertone ringers slid 33 per cent to 43.8 million units.
- Only one mastertone broke the two million mark — Lil Wayne's Lollipop.

Stock exchange ends dismal year with gains

RALLY Toronto's main stock index jumped nearly two per cent on the last day of 2008, to end the worst year for Canadian stocks since the Great Depression on a positive note as oil prices staged a late-session rally. The S&P/TSX composite index closed up 156.98 points, or 1.8 per cent, at 8,987.70 in a third-straight session of triple-digit gains.

That still translates into a full-year drop of 35 per cent, the biggest for the stock market since 1931, according to TSX figures.

The Dow Jones industrial average also had its worst performance since that year, falling 34 per cent. Despite the jump, crude is down more than \$100 US a barrel from its high set in July. **REUTERS**



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Comment & Views

2008: Can we get a do-over?

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

It might just be me — never underestimate a columnist's proficiency at subjectivity — but I can't recall the last time the transition from the old year to the new felt so downbeat.

My memories aren't exactly long — I can't speak authoritatively about any New Year during the Great Depression, or the last night of 1939, when a new world war was just getting

under steam, and I've got to assume that they were pretty glum affairs.

The transition from 1963 to 1964, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy was still recent and raw, was probably a sombre affair, but it happened just before I was born.

I've lived through Watergate and the OPEC oil crisis, and at least two major recessions after the '70s, though, so I can claim some modest long view on history's recent dark patches.

I was a freelancer during the recession following Black Monday — Oct. 19, 1987 — and lost over half of my clients in the six subsequent months, but I know that the mood in

general was far more festive when 1988 hove into view.

The consensus is pretty dire; a series of interviews with financial giants that's run in the National Post for the last few weeks has been depressing reading. "I think it's tough. I think it's going to get tougher," said Jim Treiving, CEO of Boston Pizza and Dragon's Den star.

"It sounds trite but it's a very complex and very dangerous situation," warned banking analyst

Anthony Boekh.

Asked whether he's seen a worse situation, philanthropist

and Barrick Gold CEO Peter Munk

was succinct:

"No. But then again, I'm only 81. If I was 120, I probably would

have."

It's no wonder, then, that we're acting like we're facing dust bowls and bread lines even when the

worst we've seen is mostly cruel justice — housing foreclosures on people who couldn't afford their homes to begin with, and the collapse of banking institutions who played a risky game badly and lost.

As for the crisis in the auto industry, that's been brewing for years — decades, actually — and there have been Bernie Madoffs at regular intervals since the first man traded his goat for a shiny bauble.

It's half real crisis and half coincidence, and it's rather inevitable that my industry — the media we keep hearing is at an all-time low in public trust — has managed to make it all seem like a financial per-

fect storm about to break over your leaky trawler.

It might be true — I make no claims as an oracle — but it's just as likely that we're being told to panic because nobody wants to look like Pollyanna if the worst comes to pass.

Perhaps we should take advantage of this sombre but fortuitous mood and begin the New Year like jilted lovers; skeptical of everyone, whether they're peddling optimism or doom, and especially skeptical of our own judgment, which got us into this mess in the first place.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Edmonton, we have a problem

UrbanAffairs

Terence Harding

Now that we're at the beginning of another year, it's worthwhile taking a look back at some of the civic events of 2008.

One that comes immediately to mind was the announcement that because we hadn't maintained our infrastructure adequately during the last decade, the city needed a gazillion dollars to bring it up to snuff, and that was going to result in double-digit tax increases for at least the next decade.

This demand from the city's administration resulted in shock and horror on the part of the mayor and councillors.

Like the fiscal superheroes they are, they were galvanized into action. They huffed and puffed and blew the unreasonable tax request down.

Then they did their usual budget song and dance



Did the guardian angel of road maintenance fix everything?

designed to make a seven per cent tax increase seem like a blessing come from heaven and firmly placed themselves on the side of the angels.

But what happened all those infrastructure problems? Did they just go away?

Did the guardian angel of road and building maintenance come in the night and fix everything?

I suspect not. I think those infrastructure prob-

lems are still waiting to be addressed. And that's why what's happening on the south side of the city seems all the more strange.

If you've been out in the Ellerslie Crossing area recently, you'll be quite aware that the architects of urban mediocrity have continued to vomit their ticky-tacky houses onto the landscape.

All those single family homes and townhouses will have to be serviced.

That means all the cars that go along with those homes will need roads for ingress and egress.

They will also require access to the concrete orgasms of the Anthony Henday and the interchange at South Edmonton Common as well as the downtown.

They will have to have power and gas supplied to them. And they will require new sanitary sewer and drainage connections.

Let's play a little game. What is your answer to this question?

What does one call roads, bridges and all that sort of stuff? Tick, tock, tick, tock ... That's right my friends. The answer is infrastructure.

But how can that be? Are you saying that those things are the very same kinds of infrastructure that we can't maintain right now without huge tax increases? Oh my, oh my, would that it were not so, but you're right on the money.

Edmonton, we have a problem.

Terence Harding is a corporate communicator and is a keen observer of all things Edmonton.

Letters

Bring back Canadian Idol or give it to someone else

I am depressed about next summer. I will watch American Idol, but I always look forward to our version.

I love anything Canadian. We need to have this show aired; it gives everyone hope that dreams can come true.

CTV got the hockey song — maybe they should give CBC the show for this year. Come on CTV, do something positive for this country. Find ways to make it more economical.

CAROLYN SAINCHUK
TORONTO

Israeli actions against Gaza citizens are inhumane

There are not enough words to describe the amount of inhumane actions that have just taken place in the past few days toward the Palestinian people of the Gaza Strip.

The increasing rise of the dead has exceeded 400, and more than 2,100 civilians have been injured.

It is heartbreaking to watch the ambulance stretchers carrying injured children and finding limbs

and bodies strewn all over the streets covered in dust and rubble, and blood flowing down the streets.

To make matters worse, the Israelis are bombing houses, schools, streets and hospitals.

As Gideon Levy, an Israeli commentator, put it, "Once again, Israel's violent response ... exceed all proportion and cross every red line of humaneness, morality, international law and wisdom."

The unjust and inhumane victimization of these people is beyond the human mind.

Where are these innocent victims going to hide in such a densely populated city? Cutting off food, water, electricity, medicine and other basic necessities of their daily lives, is not a justified punishment. Israelis say that they are taking out Hamas, but who are the real targets?

The fate of these innocent children, women, and men is a terrifyingly gruesome death.

The Israeli media depicts it as a war when it really is a discriminatory attack on defenceless people.

EMAN KADRI
CALGARY

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Montreal Canadiens forward Alex Tanguay will miss six weeks with a left shoulder injury. Tanguay was injured during the first period of Tuesday's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



Bolt edges Phelps

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, left, edged U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps to be voted the 2008 athlete of the year by the international media. In a poll by the International Sports Press Association, journalists from 96 nations gave Bolt a narrow edge over Phelps. Bolt won a three gold medals at the Olympics, setting world records in the 100 metres, 200 and 400 relay.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nash weighs his 2010 options

We're barely into 2009, granted, but the finest Canadian basketball player in history is already thinking about 2010.

In an interview with NBC, B.C. native **Steve Nash** confirmed what appeared in this space Nov. 24 — that he is considering the idea of joining the New York Knicks as a free agent in 2010, after his contract with the Phoenix Suns expires. He emerged with another eyebrow-raising possibility, however, by mentioning the Toronto Raptors to NBC.

While not ruling out re-signing with the Suns, Nash said: "I feel fortunate there could be other possibilities for me. New York, obviously, is my off-season home, so I love the city. It's a basketball

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca



mecca. (Ex-Suns-turned-Knicks coach) **Mike D'Antoni** is there so there's a lot of attractive variables. And then Toronto, to go back to Canada to play for the home team, so to speak. I feel good that one of those could really be a really strong possibility."

• Heaven knows the Raptors need help.

Despite Canadian media apologists who regularly utter nonsense about the Raptors "keeping close" to their opponents, the reality is that Canada's NBA franchise has deteriorated woefully, to the

point where management is planning ticket-price reductions.

Fan interest is waning partly because many of the Raptors' games aren't televised by any network that allows the masses to watch them. Mind you, considering the Raps' ineptitude, that may be a positive for the club.

Oh, and then there's word spreading around the NBA like wildfire that first-year Raptor **Jermaine O'Neal** has become a frequent complainer about injuries that may be more imagined than real.

• Ex-NBA superstar **Charles Barkley**, my favourite TV sports analyst, was drinking with **Jaleel White** — aka **Steve Urkel** of the old Family Matters sitcom — at an Arizona nightclub called Dirty/Pretty

shortly before he was arrested for DUI Tuesday night ... Ex-NFL star **Andre Rison**, who also spent some time with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, also was arrested this week on charges of public intoxication in Texas ... Look for left-hander **Andy Pettitte** to re-sign with the New York Yankees next week ... I'm told, incidentally, that the Blue Jays wouldn't mind signing an ex-Yank to fortify their offence. The question is whether they're willing to pay **Bobby Abreu** the millions he's seeking ... And soccer icon **David Beckham** has an interesting, new tattoo on his arm. It's in Hebrew, and it says: "My son, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart."

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

NHL Frozen Wrigley Field



The Chicago Blackhawks get set for a faceoff against the Detroit Red Wings during the NHL Winter Classic at Wrigley Field on Thursday. Detroit won 6-4.

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

CELIAC DISEASE CAN RUN IN FAMILIES

Do you, your mother, father, sister, brother, children over 18, or other blood relative have celiac disease?

HAVE YOU BEEN TESTED FOR CELIAC DISEASE? INTERESTED IN CELIAC RESEARCH?

The University of Alberta is conducting a study for people who have a blood relative with celiac disease or those who are newly diagnosed with celiac disease

The purpose of the research study is to look at how effective and safe an investigational medication is when it is given to subjects who have active celiac disease. The study will include people who are newly diagnosed with celiac disease, or those with a blood relative with celiac disease, which we can diagnose with a simple blood test. All participants will adhere to a gluten-free diet during the trial and will receive nutritional counseling.

You may qualify for the study if you:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 75
- Have a blood relative with Celiac Disease
- Have been diagnosed with active Celiac Disease in the last month
- Are willing to comply with a gluten-free diet for the duration of the study
- If your overall health is generally good

Left untreated, people with celiac disease can develop further complications such as other autoimmune diseases, osteoporosis, thyroid disease, and cancer.

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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Year of the Third Dimension

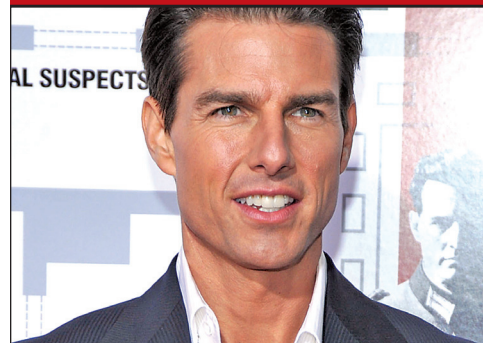
Pg 8



DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg, the man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek, has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D movies.

movies

Pg 8



Cruise's million-dollar smile noticeably gone in Valkyrie.

music

Pg 11



Indie rockers share touring, recording adventures online.

7th heaven

Pg 13



What was Britney Spears' New Year's resolution?

"POSITIVELY HILARIOUS!"
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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The year of 3-D films

Movie feature

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg is in the middle of a tough road trip. The man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D.

Now, that may sound odd. After all, the fad of 3-D surfaced decades ago and since has become something of a punchline, which is exactly what's making Katzenberg's mission so challenging.

By treating journalists to a sneak peek of his groundbreaking InTru digital 3-D comedy Monsters vs. Aliens — coming in March — Katzenberg is showing off how digital advancement has breached the campy fourth wall that was once reserved for such B-movies

as 1953's Robot Monster and Cat-Women of the Moon.

"It was used as a gimmick," said Katzenberg about the historical use of 3-D. "It doesn't replace a great story, so we come back to the very fundamental aspect of this, which is (that) Monsters vs. Aliens is great in its own right ... but I think to be able to experience it in 3-D is something really exciting."

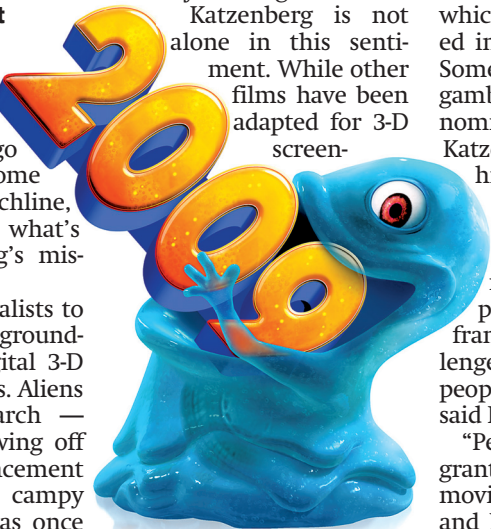
Katzenberg is not alone in this sentiment. While other films have been adapted for 3-D screen-

ings, we're entering a year filled with 3-D-conceived projects, including My Bloody Valentine 3-D, Pixar's Up, Disney's A Christmas Carol and James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar.

For Katzenberg — whose studio already spends about \$165 million per movie — the decision to begin making his films in 3-D wasn't easy. The technology will add 10 per cent to his costs, which will likely be reflected in the admission price. Some critics say such a gamble in a recessive economic climate is risky, but Katzenberg remains true to his latest innovation.

"Relative to any other choice you can do out of the home, movies are still just a phenomenal value. And frankly, in more challenged economic times, people appreciate it more," said Katzenberg.

"People took movies for granted and they took the movie theatre for granted, and I don't think they are right now."



5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

BEST PICTURE (Drama)

BEST DIRECTOR David Fincher

BEST ACTOR (Drama) Brad Pitt

BEST SCREENPLAY Screenplay by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord
Story by Eric Roth

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE Alexandre Desplat

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER
"A Movie That Must Be Experienced. A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT."
— Rex Reed

Rolling Stone
"SWEEPS YOU AWAY... WHAT DAVID FINCHER DOES IS SIMPLY EXTRAORDINARY. He fuses ferocity and feeling and creates a world you want to get lost in."
— Peter Travers

NEW YORK POST
"★★★★★ A CLASSIC FOR THE AGES. Brad Pitt gives a deeply soulful and affecting performance. Cate Blanchett is luminous."
— Lou Lumenick

BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT

The Curious Case Of
BENJAMIN BUTTON

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A KENNEDY/MARSHALL PRODUCTION A DAVID FINCHER FILM BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT "THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON"
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WARNER BROS. PICTURES KENNEDY/MARSHALL COARSE LANGUAGE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR YOUNG CHILDREN benjaminbutton.com FROM THE SHORT STORY BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD SCREENPLAY BY ERIC ROTH AND ROBIN SWICORD STORY BY ERIC ROTH DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER
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Winter wasteland awaits movies

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

FEATURE Watching movies in January is a lot like dating on the rebound after a bad break-up; no one expects you to take anything seriously, and after the trauma you've just experienced, you can be excused for letting your standards down just a bit.

There's one thing everyone can agree on about movies released during the first three months of the year — in spite of how much they cost to make, or how good they might actually be — these aren't films anyone really expects to be in the running for the Oscars nine months hence.

This is the season of the middling horror franchise, the low-budget remake, the featherweight comedy and the disappointing marquee projects, finally taken off the shelves and allowed to expire in the theatres with a modicum of dignity.

The sterile and purgatorial waiting room before DVD release, in other words.

A brief sampling of the titles scheduled to hit the theatres after New Year's Day will paint a picture for you: Midnight Movie, The Unborn, Race to Witch Mountain and Pink Panther 2. There are films with portentous colons in their titles: Butterfly Ef-



Rhona Mitra stars in Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans.

What's to come

JANUARY:

- Butterfly Effect: Revelation
- Notorious
- Mall Cop
- My Bloody Valentine 3-D
- Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans

FEBRUARY:

- Under the Sea 3-D
- He's Just Not That Into You
- Friday the 13th
- Confessions of a Shopaholic
- The Pink Panther 2
- The International

fect: Revelation; Clive Barker Presents: Hellraiser; Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans; and The Jonas Brothers: Burning Up.

There are not one but two 3-D titles to tempt you from your warm living rooms on snowy nights — My Bloody Valentine 3-D and Under the Sea 3-D — and a few chick flicks, such as the Renee Zellweger vehicle New In Town, along with Confessions of a Shopaholic and He's Just

Not That Into You.

By the time the much-anticipated Watchmen arrives in March, the movie landscape post-Oscars will look as barren as the Somme after a barrage, and Zack Snyder's FX-laden comic-book epic will probably arrive like the mothership, bringing with it the first monster opening weekend of the year.

From the tip of winter's chilly blade, it seems like an eternity away.

The smile that made a superstar

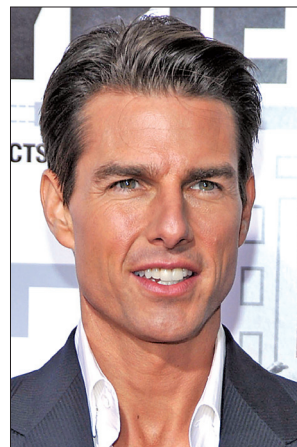
InFocus

Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Valkyrie looks like a standard-issue Tom Cruise movie with the usual explosions, intrigue and wild action. The missing key element is his megawatt smile. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg is so stern-faced he makes the expression-challenged Buster Keaton seem riotously animated by comparison.

If Helen of Troy was the face that launched a thousand ships, then Cruise has the smile that sold a million movie tickets. Wide and toothy, it stretches the full breadth of his face as a pearly-white physical manifestation of his movie-star



Tom Cruise.

charisma. Cruise's grin is his most distinctive feature and the focus of his public persona.

The smile debuted in a Risky Business scene where he recruits clients for his new business. There it was a charming, non-aggressive symbol of his self-assuredness. The '80s saw the lopsided grin become a pop-culture icon. It shone from the cockpit of his Top Gun F-14 and reflected off

the Stoli bottles in Cocktail. In each of these films the smile is 90 per cent of the performance.

The smile's most natural performance to date is in Magnolia. As the inspirational guru of the "Seduce and Destroy" technique, Cruise handed in the best performance of his career because he understood the character's innate charisma.

The villain characters of The Last Samurai and Collateral show the smile's emotional range. The smile is still there, but now it's menacing. For example, Vincent, the hit man in Collateral, uses an ominously icy smile when he's about to hurt people.

In one form or another, the smile has been front and centre in all of Cruise's hits. Without it, Valkyrie just doesn't feel like a real Cruise blockbuster.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

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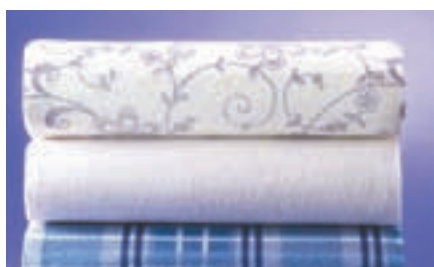
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Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 2 TO THURS., JAN. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS

10200 102nd Ave., 780-421-7020

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes, Digital Presentation Fri-Thu 12:05-3:05-7:35

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:3-40-8

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-6:55-9:20

Doubt (PG) DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-6:55-9:20

The Reader (18A) DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:25-3:15-6:30-9:10

Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes, DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:55

Valkyrie (PG) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:35-6:40-9:40

Yes Man (14A) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-7:10-9:50

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS

4211 139th Ave., 780-472-7600

Bedtime Stories (G) Digital Presentation, No Passes Fri-Sat 2-4:25-7:30 Digital Presentation Sun 2-4:25-7:9:30 Digital Presentation Mon-Thu 4:25-7:9:30

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:10-4:50-8:30 Sun 1:10-4:50-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:50-8:30

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Sun 1:35-5:7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:7:25-9:50

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 9

Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:35 Sun 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:35

Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 4:6:40-9:25

The Spirit (14A) Fri-Sun 2:10-4:40-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:15-9:40

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-6:45 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:45

Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:30-9:15

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 1:3-50-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:35-9:20

Yes Man (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:35-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10-9:45

GARNEAU THEATRE

8712 - 109 St., 780-433-2212

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10

METRO CINEMA

Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101 Ave., 780-425-9212, metrocinema.org

Flicker (STC) Fri-9:15 Sat 7 Sun 9:15 Mon 7

Patti Smith: Dream of Life (14A) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 7 Mon 9 Tue-Wed 7-9

MOVIES 12

5074 130 Ave., 780-472-9779

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:35

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-2-4:45-7:20-9:50

Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 4:10-6:55-9:35

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:55-9:50

The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 7:40

Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:9:45

Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Thu 1-



Adam Sandler stars in Bedtime Stories, which is currently in theatres.

4:35-8:15
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-2:05-4:05-6:45-7:25-9:55
Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30
Max Payne (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25

Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-6:50-9:20
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:15-9:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:40

NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS

14231 137th Ave., 780-732-2236

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-

2:50-5:10-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:40-10:15
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-4:45-7:15-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 2:15-6:20-10 Mon-Thu 2:15-6:20-10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-6:40-9:10
Doubt (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:30-6:30-9 Wed 3:30-6:30-9 Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-7:20-10:05
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:9:55 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:9:55
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-5-8-10:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:40-7:05-9:20 Mon-Thu 12:10-2:20-4:40-7:05-9:20
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:3-50-6:50-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20
Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:30 Wed 5:15-7:50-10:30 Thu 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

PRINCESS I & II

10337 Whyte Ave., 780-433-0728

I've Loved You So Long (STC) Fri 6:55-9:05 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:55-9:05 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:05

Milk (14A) Fri 6:45-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10

SCOTIABANK THEATRE WEST MALL

8882 170th St., 780-444-2400

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Tue 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:30-10:10 Wed 4:50-7:30-10:10 Thu 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Tue 12-4-8 Wed 4:15-8 Thu 12-4-8 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:15-6:40-9:15 Thu 1:30-4:15-9:15
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:15-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:45
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10
Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:30

SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON

1525 99th St., 780-436-8585

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5:7:30-10 Mon-Thu 12-2:30-5:7:30-10

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:20-9:40

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-2-4-6:15-8-10 Mon-Wed 12:15-2-4-6:15-8-10 Thu 12:15-4-6:15-8-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:30-10:30

Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:01-6:50-9:45

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:40-5-7:15-9:50 Thu 12:10-2:40-5-10:10

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:25

Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:30-7:40-10:15 Mon-Wed 1:15-4:30-7:40-10:15 Thu 4:7:40-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:3-50-6:45-9:30

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 5-9

Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10:10 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10:10

The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4-7:40-10:30

The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:20-4:45-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 12-2:20-4:45-7-9:20

Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:40-7:20-10:20

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:50-9:45

Yes Man (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:20-7:15-10:20

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE

Edmonton Space And Science Centre, 1121-142 St., 780-451-3344

The Alps (STC) Fri-Sun 4
Amazon (STC) Mon 1:30 Thu 12:30
Beavers (STC) Tue 9:30
Bugs! (STC) Mon 9:30 Wed 10:30
Coral Reef Adventure (G) Mon 11:30 Tue 1:30
Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Tue 12:30 Thu 10:30
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri-Sat 1-3-5-7-9 Sun 1-3-5 Mon-Thu 3
Greece: Secrets of the Past (STC) Mon 12:30 Tue 11:30
The Human Body (STC) Wed 1:30 Thu 9:30
Hurricane on the Bayou (STC) Tue 10:30 Thu 11:30
The IMAX Nutcracker (STC) Fri-Sun 12
Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri-Sat 2-8 Sun 2
Mystic India IMAX (STC) Wed 9:30
Space Station (G) Mon 10:30 Wed 12:30
Whales: An Unforgettable Journey (STC) Wed 11:30 Thu 1:30

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Marley & Me (PG) (PG) DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:3-45-6:55-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:55-9:45
The Spirit (14A) DTS Digital Fri-Sun 1:25-4:05-7:15-9:55 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 7:15-9:55
Valkyrie (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20
Yes Man (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 1:15-3:55-7:05-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue-Thu 7:05-9:35

Movie morsels

Australia



REVIEW Australia is a beautifully filmed study of a vast land that — as one character says — has “a strange power.” What director Baz Luhrmann should fret over is the drawn-out narrative that plays to melodramatic excess. Set during the outbreak of World War II, Australia features Nicole Kidman as Lady Ashley, widow of a mysteriously murdered cattle ranch owner. When confronted by her husband’s rival with a takeover bid, Ashley hires a maverick stockman (Hugh Jackman) and joins him on a massive cattle drive across the outback.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Bedtime Stories



REVIEW Bedtime Stories

brings Adam Sandler to Disney and the results are predictably placid. Sandler’s once anarchistic comic spirit has been dulling with age and joining the Disney team feels like an appropriate crash landing for his downward trajectory. The film is far too predictable childish to appeal to the actor’s core audience, coming off like the type of forgettable family comedy that would have starred Steve Guttenberg and gone straight to video 10 years ago.

Phil Brown/Metro Canada

Beverly Hills Chihuahua



REVIEW These days, it seems Hollywood producers are all wondering the same thing: If my dog could speak, what would it say? Well, Beverly Hills Chihuahua is the latest

talking animal flick to heed that query. Featuring the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia and other celebs, Chihuahua is a harmless “tail” about a snooty, rich lapdog that gets lost in Mexico and must journey back to Rodeo Drive.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button



REVIEW Based on a tale by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Button tells the life story of a man who is born with the physicality of an 80-year-old but mysteriously ages in reverse meeting impossible challenges along the way. If that vaguely sounds a bit Forrest Gumpish, don’t be surprised — Gump’s Eric Roth penned this human epic too. There’s a lot of talk about Brad Pitt possi-

bly sneaking an Oscar, and he definitely gives the best performance of his career.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Bolt



REVIEW Essentially, this tale about the unyielding loyalty of canines is as charming and heart-tugging as any Disney movie out there. Even better, the film excels in skill, depth and maturity equalling that of Wall-E and Ratatouille. Not really surprising since Pixar’s brilliant chief John Lasseter is now running Disney’s animation department as well.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

The Spirit



REVIEW Oddly enough, The Spirit reminds me of a cartoon version of James Bond. See, in the same

sense that the British spy is an indestructible crime fighter driven largely off the insatiable appetite of women, so too is this comic book icon. In fact, replace 007’s trademark martini with a glowing red tie and you might not be able to tell him apart from George Lazenby. Take that as you will.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Twilight



REVIEW Kristin Stewart stars as Bella, a young girl who moves to a small town and becomes instantly captivated by a classmate named Edward (Robert Pattinson) who is part of a very peculiar and insular family known as the Cullens. As Bella becomes more attracted to Edward, she discovers that the Cullens are a clan of vampires ... but very safe emo-vam-

pires who only drink animal blood and spend of most of their time silently emoting and looking pretty rather than preying on helpless victims. Thus begins an epic tale of forbidden love that has made the hearts of millions of teenage girls swoon.

Phil Brown/Metro Canada

Valkyrie



REVIEW There’s no doubt Valkyrie was an ambitiously high risk project for Tom Cruise, and the truth is the film will likely struggle to fill theatre seats as it focuses on the true story of an assassination attempt on German dictator Adolph Hitler. Cruise plays Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg (Cruise), a tragically injured soldier who joins an inside gang of Nazi conspirators to eliminate Hitler.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Top 5 CDs according to Amazon.ca

1. Day And Age, The Killers; 2. The Priests, The Priests; 3. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 4. Funhouse, Pink; 5. Soul, Seal. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

See-through lives of indie rock

Amos The Transparent lets fans in on every aspect of their music

BRIAN TOWIE

brian.towie@metronews.ca



The term "Transparent" in Amos The Transparent couldn't stick better.

The Ottawa-based indie rock outfit takes its fans beyond the music, posting videos of their adventures touring across the country and recording in-studio on their website. Hours stuck in traffic singing Celine Dion songs (ironically, of course!), fussing over stacks of ready-made grocery store pies, sound checks on short notice — the life of a travelling band can be rough.

"Being in a band means nothing nowadays and it's not glorious. Your grandmother could be in a band," says Amos creator and frontman Jonathan Chandler. "So we thought it would be a fun, experimental thing to do that no one's really done before."

On Celine Dion he adds, "That was our bass player (James Nicol). You can only cycle through Kings of Leon

"I would say that it's pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock for that matter."

Amos The Transparent frontman Jonathan Chandler

so many times."

But indie rock lovers are cycling through Amos The Transparent more and more. Their experimental arrangements on debut Everything I've Forgotten To Forget, based in folksy acoustic melodies and classic rock, have gone over well with audiences at venues across the land — some including openers for Polaris Prize winner Patrick Watson.

Amy Millan of the Stars — birthed in part by music collective Broken Social Scene, which Amos The Transparent has been compared with — took notice of the band after a 2006 Bluesfest show in Ottawa, which led to a album guest star spot on track After All That It's Come To This.

"I would say that it's pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock for that matter," Chandler said. "Certainly to Broken Social Scene, which I think happened because we originally started with eight people and they're such a large group too."

Chandler plans to release more for an exclusively digital EP in late January, which he says is the reason we haven't seen any recent online docs. But fans take note: they're on their way.

"I don't want to show my hand completely," he said. "But yeah, we're tampering with new interesting stuff."



For a link to the band's website check out Metronews.ca/music



Amos The Transparent's sound is hard to classify, but it's been on the mind of frontman Jonathan Chandler for a long time.

Metro recommends

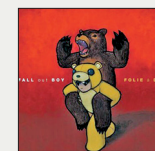
• **BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL:**

The Cuban collective's exuberant live performance is caught on tape on only the second album featuring the original members ever released.



• **FALL OUT BOY, FOLIE À DEUX:**

Chicago pop-punk outfit sheds emo handcuffs, adds a little prog rock and gets some help from Debbie Harry and Lil Wayne on its fifth studio offering.



• **FEMI KUTI, DAY BY DAY:**

The son of legendary African musician Fela Kuti delivers an irresistible collection of danceable Afrobeat cuts.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Top-notch prospects for 2009 music season

SoundCheck

Alan Cross



alan@ongoinghistory.com

Wondering who's going to rock your world in 2009? Here are some possibilities:

LAND OF TALK: Female-

fronted, Montreal-based band has a chance at being a Big Deal in 2009, especially since Metric has taken so long to release their next record.

DEAD CONFEDERATE: Fuzzy, spacey band managed by the same folks who fostered a little band called "Nirvana" back in the day.

FRANZ FERDINAND: Their third record, Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, will be out on the 27th. I've heard it and I

like it a lot.

FIGHT LIKE APES: Insanely raw group from Dublin that is about as far from U2 as you can get.

LUDO: St. Louis post-emo group that reminds me of a young Weezer.

U2: Hopes and wishes are that No Line on the Horizon (due March 3) will revitalize the record and concert industry during these times of economic woe.

SANTOGOLD: When I saw

Santi White and her crew open for Coldplay last year, I wasn't moved. Not a bit. Nothing. I've since had a change of heart. There's a weird mix of indie rock and electronica going on her that I really like.

TING TINGS: Now that the White Stripes made two-piece bands cool, many groups have cut down on overhead and eliminated the fluffy bits. Of this bunch, I vote for the Ting

Tings, probably because singer Katie White is so damned hot.

COLDPLAY: They conquered the world — again — in 2008. Now what?

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS

1. Poker Face Lady Gaga ft. Colby O'Donis
2. Live Your Life T.I. ft. Rihanna
3. Decode Paramore
4. Right Now (Na Na Na) Akon
5. Heartless Kanye West
6. Hot N Cold Katy Perry
7. Rock N' Roll Train AC/DC
8. Circus Britney Spears
9. Love Story Taylor Swift
10. I'm So Paid Akon

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Asking **\$159,000**

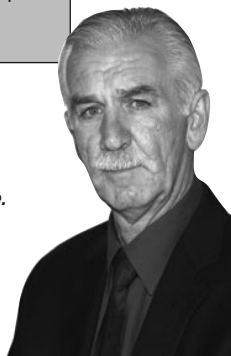
Most of these properties are relatively new. In Canada, these prices don't even buy a building lot!

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Madonna, Dion the top concert draws of 2008

Madonna and Celine Dion were the biggest worldwide concert draws in 2008, each selling more than \$200 million US worth of tickets to their slickly produced shows, trade publication Pollstar said Tuesday. **REUTERS**

movies&entertainment **13**

Going Out

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY

For more great events around the city, visit: metronews.ca/entertainment

Hockey exhibits

When: Until Sunday
Where: Art Gallery of Alberta

Arena: The Art of Hockey exhibit at the Art Gallery of Alberta delivers a photographic look at how hockey has defined Canada. If that's not enough, 30 Years Young, which features memorabilia from the past 30 Edmonton Oilers hockey seasons, is also being featured.

Chimprov by Rapid Fire Theatre

When: Every Saturday until June
Where: Varscona Theatre

If laughs are what you're after, hit the Varscona Theatre tomorrow for Chimprov, brought to you by Rapid Fire Theatre. They go every Saturday night, except the last Saturday night of each month, until June.

Bright Nights Winter festival

When: Until Sunday, 5 to 10 p.m.
Where: Hawrelak Park

Still hunkering for that holiday feeling? Catch the Bright Nights Winter Family Festival at Hawrelak park, featuring "fairy tales, forests and fantasies, without leaving the warmth of your vehicle." Cost is \$20 for a family vehicle.

Joshua's Journey

When: Until Sunday
Where: Royal Alberta Museum

For those looking for a journey, they can take Joshua's Journey, a look at Joshua Loper's first ride on the Chisholm Trail — experiencing the life of an American cowboy — all at the Royal Alberta Museum. Call 780-453-9100 for information.

Jordan Cook's live show

When: Until Sunday
Where: Blues On Whyte

If you missed Canadian guitarist Jordan Cook's New Year's Eve show at Blues On Whyte, there's no need to worry — Cook plays all weekend at one of Edmonton's finest live blues venues. For more information drop by bluesonwhyte.ca.

WHL action

When: Tonight, 7 p.m.
Where: Rexall Place

We start with hockey — and we'll end with hockey — only this time it's the live version. The Kootenay Ice visit the Edmonton Oilers in WHL action tonight at 7 p.m. And hey, as an added attraction, it appears as though there'll be live baby races there, too.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Valkyrie
Tom Cruise's *Valkyrie* is doing better than expected. The Second World War thriller earned \$21.5 million last weekend and \$30 million since its Christmas Day release.

5 Intuition
Jamie Foxx finished 2009 on a high note. The album *Intuition*, which came out last week, debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 album chart. It was the week's top debut.

2 Nail resolution
Thinking of starting the new year with a promise to yourself? Britney Spears' New Year's resolution is to stop biting her nails and take better care of her hands, but she won't be too hard on herself if she fails, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Actress Joanna Page also made the same resolution this year.

6 Buff president
Barack Obama has created quite a stir after he was photographed shirtless while vacationing in Hawaii last month. The soon-to-be president is one of the few leaders of the world with a pretty nice physique.



3 Christmas with the folks
It seems everyone has been spending time with relatives this holiday season — even the stars. Acting brothers Matt and Kevin Dillon are famous, but they've never missed a Christmas at home with their parents and four other siblings, PageSix.com reports.

4 Entertainer of the Year
Actress Tina Fey was voted as The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year. AP members chose the 30 Rock star and Saturday Night Live Sarah Palin spoofer as the performer who had a greatest impact on culture and entertainment in 2008.



7 Across the border
Mexico was the place to be this New Year's. Star Jennifer Aniston ushered in 2009 with Courtney Cox Arquette and her beau, while George Clooney, Kid Rock and Cindy Crawford caught some rays, tmz.com reports.

The best and worst of celebrity gossip

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

It's a sex, sleaze and crack cocaine cocktail! Join us as Metro looks back at the (literal and figurative) highs and lows of celebrity gossip in 2008.

BUMPING UGLIES Lindsay Lohan kissed a girl and she liked it. Surely the height of celebrity courtship was the romance between the post-rehab starlet and DJ Samantha Ronson. Following months of speculation, Lohan confirmed their affinity in September. And, in less monogamous meandering, Madonna celebrated 50 big ones by laying a big one on Yankee Alex Rodriguez. He maintains they're just friends. But Madge's alleged baseball fling may have precipitated her divorce from British filmmaker Guy Ritchie. The couple split after eight years in October.

REHAB REVELATIONS Ex-*X-Files* star David Duchovny's wife, actress Tea Leoni, tried to make him go to rehab ... and he willingly obliged. His ad-

mittance for sex addiction was the first in a series of unexpected celebrity rehab visits. Eva Mendes checked into a Utah facility in February once frequented by Lohan, and was later joined by Spider-Man's Kirsten Dunst.

MINI ME'S Joining the ranks of Apple Blythe Alison Martin and Moon Unit Zappa this year were a host of celebrity babies whose parents wish to inflict formative peer trauma on their kids. Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban brought us daughter Sunday Rose Kidman Urban in July, while Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale's second boy, Zuma Nesta Rock Rossdale, arrived in August.

GETTING BETTER For once, Britney Spears didn't do it again! In 2008, the singer regained visitation rights to her children, glowingly guest-starred on CBS' *How I Met Your Mother*, and won three MTV Video Music and two MTV Europe Music Awards. Her new single *Womanizer* reached top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 — her first No. 1 since her debut album.

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Celebrity Buzz

Richie hoping for baby No. 2

FAMILY It's baby time again for Nicole Richie and her rocker boyfriend, Joel Madden, starmagazine.com is reporting.

The Jan. 12 issue of the magazine reports that as their daughter Harlow gets ready to celebrate her first birthday, reformed party girl Nicole is taking vitamins, eating healthy and designing trendy maternity wear in preparation for her second pregnancy.

"Nicole simply told Joel that she wants another baby — right away," a friend confides to Star. "He was a little over-

whelmed at first, but now he's with her 100 per cent. They're both thrilled about adding to their family."

And, after overcoming a rocky period in their relationship, the couple seems to be in a good place to expand their family.

Nicole and Joel went through a "rough patch, but now things are amazing between them," says a source. "Nicole knows it's because they're both so happy with Harlow, and she truly believes another baby will double their commitment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Latifah targeted in jewelry theft

PEOPLE Paris Hilton is not the only recent celebrity victim of jewelry theft — this time, thieves have gone after items belonging to Queen Latifah, msn.com reports.

The website says Queen Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, had more than \$10,000 worth of jewelry reportedly stolen from her luxury villa in Tobago, an island resort in the Caribbean, according to the local paper, Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday.

Two gold rings, a gold chain and a silver ring were allegedly taken from singer's \$1,000-a-night villa.

Tobago police told the paper they believe a staff member commit-

ted the theft. Local police have also reportedly questioned several employees of Stone Haven Villas.

"Several searches are being carried out and the police are trying to have the jewelry returned to Queen Latifah. Investigators said the larceny seems to be an inside job and efforts are being made round the clock to make a breakthrough," acting Police Commissioner James Philbert told the paper.

According to the paper, the singer said the missing jewelry held sentimental value to her and she is willing to offer a reward for its return.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lewis favoured for Mariah musical role

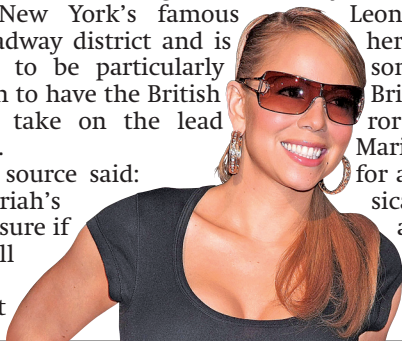
MUSIC Mariah Carey wants Leona Lewis to play her in a musical of her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Touch My Body singer has reportedly agreed to see her story immortalized in a stage show in New York's famous Broadway district and is said to be particularly keen to have the British star take on the lead role.

A source said: "Mariah's not sure if she'll star in it

herself. If she doesn't, names being tossed around include High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens and Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria. But Mariah secretly likes the idea of Leona Lewis playing her." A spokesperson confirmed to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: Mariah is in talks for a Broadway musical to be made about her life in 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



DJ AM explains lawsuit

LEGAL DJ AM wants us to know he's not taking the fatal plane crash he survived personally, people.com reports.

In response to reports about his recently filed negligence lawsuit against those his legal camp feels are liable for the Sept. 19 crash that killed four and left AM and Travis Barker with severe burns, the celebrity spinner has taken issue with the interpretation

that he is suing the families of the deceased pilots.

"Normally I don't feel like I NEED to make a statement like this, but after I read some recently reported untruths I feel like I have to," AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, wrote on his MySpace blog. "I want to take a second to address the hurtful posts and clear up any misunderstandings any of you may have about my law suit. I would NEVER sue the deceased pilots' estates or personal holdings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Criss proposed to Holly: Witness

RELATIONSHIPS Holly Madison and Criss Angel may be walking down the aisle, usmagazine.com reports.

The gossip site quotes and E! report that the couple — who have been dating since Madison's October split from Hugh Hefner — were spotted at Berger & Son Fine Jewelers in Las Vegas on Christmas Eve eyeing rings.

"They were looking at one ring and Criss said, 'Would you marry me?'" a spy told E!. "Holly didn't say anything. She just looked at

him." After a crowd began to form outside the store, the pair prepared to make a hasty exit,

and Angel "hand-ed the

ring back to the sales guy and said, 'Thanks,'" the witness says.

A rep for Madison admits Angel picked up bling for her — but says it's not for a wedding.

"Criss bought Holly a ring for her birthday," the rep said. "It's a flower ring."

A source close to Angel tells usmagazine.com: "He asked Holly what she wanted for her birthday and she said she only wanted a flower so he got her the diamond ring that is shaped like a flower."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hudson to sing at Obama event?

PERFORMANCE Jennifer Hudson may perform at Barack Obama's Inauguration, usmagazine.com is reporting. The performance would be her first since her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew were brutally murdered in Chicago last October. "Organizers want Jennifer to sing The Star-Spangled Banner at the Inauguration on January 20," a source tells the New York Post, which first reported the news. "They are talking to Jennifer about it," the source adds. "She is from Chicago and a huge Obama supporter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Need a light? Just ask Biel

PEOPLE Jessica Biel carries a cigarette lighter even though she doesn't smoke, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I'm not a smoker, but I always feel really left out when everybody goes out to smoke, so I join them and light their cigarettes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Costar praises Black's kissing

PEOPLE Cloris Leachman displays some serious PDA with Jack Black in an upcoming episode of The Office, usmagazine.com reports. "I have an intimate scene with Jack Black," Leachman told Entertainment Tonight. "He has to take me naked out of a bath tub and we kiss a lot," added Leachman, 82.

So is Black — 43 years her junior — a good smoocher? "Yeah!" Leachman said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Today
Scattered flurries.
-19 °C / -21 °C

Saturday
Mostly cloudy.
-20 °C / -29 °C

Sunday
Afternoon clouds.
-13 °C / -23 °C



Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television
“My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it’s always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.” **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**



Take Five

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
		18				19				20		
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31			32	33	34
			35			36			37			
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			6		9			
9	2						5	1
	5			4		8		
		9		8	3			4
			3				9	
7					6	1		3
		2		7			8	
1	8						7	3
			3		8			6

Crossword across

- 1 Quantities stolen
6 Boom times
9 Harvest goddess
12 Up to
13 Enthusiast
14 Torched
15 Mrs. Gorbachev
16 Render untraditionally
18 Incision implement
20 Leak slowly
21 Mueller’s org.
23 State of India
24 Twangy
25 Lounge about
27 Unfriendly
29 EBBs collectively
- 31 Veer
35 Excuse
37 Stench
38 Story-telling brother
41 Scarlet
43 Wolfed down
44 Carry on
45 Breakfast choice
47 Put on a pedestal
49 Oust
52 Round Table address
53 La —, Bolivia
54 Bakery request
55 Plaything
56 Raw rock
57 Saccharine

Crossword down

- 1 “Ben- —”
2 Literary collection
3 Work with
4 Sax-playing Simpson
5 Word on the street?
6 Open
7 Green shot
8 Pigs’ digs
9 Hodgepodes
10 Fast food choice
11 Bessemer product
17 Hammock occupant
19 Raccoon’s cousin
21 Winter bug
22 — -relief
24 Without delay
- 26 Canine coat
28 Wickerwork willow
30 Freddy’s street
32 Become aware of
33 Examine
34 — out a living
36 Pleasant wind
38 Mill fodder
39 TV’s ancestor
40 Scrimshaw material
42 Gary Cooper role
45 Despot
46 Declare
48 Wall St. debut
50 Bee follower
51 Potent stick

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	S		C	O	I	L		A	R	I	D
Y	A	M		O	N	T	O		N	O	L	O
E	G	O		R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T
R	I	G	I	D				S	K	I		
				N	O	V	A		E	L	B	O
C	O	R	N	B	E	L	T		S	A	V	E
A	K	A		A	R	B	O	R	B	A	S	
B	R	I	O		T	U	N	A	M	E	L	T
S	A	L	S	A		M	E	T	E			
			P	R	O			A	N	O	D	E
H	E	A	R	T	F	E	L	T		B	A	R
R	A	G	E		F	L	E	A		I	T	S
S	I	T	A	Y		S	K	I	T		T	A

8	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	1	6
4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4
5	2	4	3	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5

Find today’s answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	Genius	
13-17 min	Scholar	
	21-25 min	Not bad
	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce

INGREDIENTS — FISH:

- 4 fresh or frozen and thawed salmon or halibut steaks, 3/4 inch (2 cm) thick (about 6 oz/175 g each)
 - 1 cup dry white wine
 - 1 small yellow onion, thickly sliced
 - 2 lemon slices
 - 4 sprigs parsley
 - 4 whole black peppercorns
- INGREDIENTS — DILL SAUCE:**
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter or margarine
 - 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
 - 2 tsp (10 ml) finely chopped fresh dill or 3/4 tsp (4 ml) dried dill weed
 - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sugar
 - 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
 - 1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
 - 1 teaspoon lemon juice

METHOD:

1. Rinse fish and pat dry. Poach fish: in large skillet, combine wine, onion, lemon slices, parsley and peppercorns. Bring to boil. Arrange salmon in a single layer in wine mixture. Bring to boil. Lower heat

and simmer, covered, for 5 to 8 minutes or until fish flakes when tested with fork. Use slotted spatula to carefully remove salmon from the skillet; keep warm. Strain and reserve 1 cup (250 ml) cooking liquid.

2. For dill sauce: in small saucepan, melt butter over moderate heat. Whisk in flour, dill, sugar and salt, and cook for 1 minute or until bubbly. Add reserved cooking liquid. Cook, whisking constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Slowly stir about 1/2 cup (125 ml) hot mixture into egg yolk, then return to saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes or until the mixture thickens (do not boil). Stir in lemon juice.

3. Spoon some dill sauce over salmon and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month’s Reader’s Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A larger-than-life mystery deepens. A drama queen is reaching critical mass. An elderly person can move you to tears.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Contact with a maniac will revive you. An ambiguous friend realizes his foolishness. A sweetheart wants to give you something special.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be sincere with someone who is attentive. Ask questions about some entertaining surprises. You are too excitable for your own good.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be true to yourself. A troubled person creates animosity. Don’t disagree with a stranger who makes sense.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Give some thought to being more diligent. Don’t refuse an offer that saves money. A daunting person will ask you for something precious.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be serious when dealing with an obstinate fool. Answer questions without joking. Be prepared to face a difficulty alone.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Make sure that all loose ends are tied up. Time is wasted in mending someone’s misery. Plans are made to clear the air.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don’t waste a chance to discuss secrets. Someone pulls the rug out from under a worker. Frustration results from sticking to the rules.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Trust a friend to be honest with you. A message comes about an illness. Decisions are influenced by casual comments.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It’s a good day to make a special request. Use your common sense with romantic interests. Avoid over-sensitivity at dinner time.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don’t give up on someone who has problems. There’s a happy ending for a gullible guy. An important person is willing to work on a new project.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A serious relationship continues after a setback. A man is excused for standing his ground. You’ll make time for another project.



WORDY GURDY® BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Do damage to Old MacDonald’s spread (1)
2. Coexist in a dragon’s den (1)
3. Unfairly distort a puzzle hint (1)
4. Use a loom to make a shirt arm section (1)
5. Athenians’ horror movie screams (1)
6. Red Cross founder Clara’s kilt patterns (2)
7. Fighting hard to keep three balls in the air (2)

ANSWERS: 1. HARM FARM 2. SHARE LAIR 3. SKEW CLOVE 4. WEAVE SLEEVE 5. GREEKS SHRIEK 6. BARTONS TARTANS 7. STRUGGLING JUGGLING

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word. To win \$10, send your original rhymes with your definitions to this newspaper. All entries become the property of UFS, Inc.

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Thanks and \$10 to Anita Gregory of Pasadena, CA for #6. Send your entry to this newspaper.

This day in history

- JAN. 2, 1860 — The discovery of the planet Vulcan is announced at a meeting of the Académie des Sciences in Paris.
- JAN. 2, 1882 — John D. Rockefeller unites his oil holdings into the Standard Oil trust.
- JAN. 2, 1959 — Luna 1, the first spacecraft to reach the vicinity of the moon and to orbit the sun, is launched by the U.S.S.R.
- JAN. 2, 1993 — Leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia meet to discuss peace plans.

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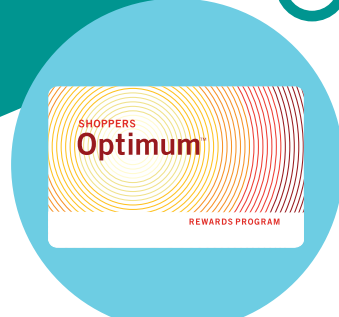
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or 2.99 each. Limit 4
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REST OF WEEK 8.99

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